

NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS

Temporary Employment Visas

Like most countries, the United States places restrictions on the employment in the United States of persons who are not citizens or legal permanent residents. It is important to note that persons who enter the United States as tourists are not permitted to work while there in tourist status.

Just as American citizens must obtain Work and Residency Permits in order to work and live temporarily in The Bahamas or Turks and Caicos, citizens of those countries seeking to work and live temporarily in the United States must first obtain a category of visa which includes authorization to work and reside there.

If you are applying for a temporary work visa (H1B, H2A, H2B, H3, L, O, P and dependants) please email your **petition number**, together with your name and your appointment date, to VisaNassau@state.gov a few days before your visa interview is scheduled. If we don't receive your petition number, it might delay issuing the visa. By receiving a petition number before the interview we can start the process earlier.

The more common categories of work visas are:

- H1B Visa: Workers employed in certain specialty occupations as well as artists, entertainers, athletes and fashion models of distinguished merit and ability, along with persons assisting in their performances;
- H2A Visa: Temporary or seasonal agriculture workers;
- H2B Visa: Workers in temporary or seasonal jobs that could not be filled by U.S. citizens or residents;
- H3 Visa: professional trainees or interns;
- L Visa: Managers or executives of multinational corporations, transferred to the company's U.S. office;
- O Visa: Individual of sustained national or international acclaim in the sciences, arts, education, business or athletics traveling to the U.S. to work or perform in that field;
- P Visa: Artists, entertainers and athletes recognized at an international level; artists and entertainers performing under a reciprocal agreement between the U.S. and their country; or artists and entertainers whose performances are considered culturally unique.

For a full listing and more details, [click here](#). In all of the above visa categories, the prospective employer in the U.S. must first file Form I-129, Petition for Non-Immigrant Worker, with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ([USCIS](#)). Once approved, the employer is sent a notice of approval. It should be noted that the approval of a petition shall not guarantee visa issuance to an applicant found ineligible under provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).

Spouses and minor children of H, L, O, and P visa holders are eligible to accompany the principal applicant so long as the principal applicant is able to show that he/she will be able to support his/her family while in the United States. For more information, [click here](#).